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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,075	08/28/2003	Terry Neumaster	024361-0146	7208

22428 7590 07/23/2004

FOLEY AND LARDNER  
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3000 K STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

RICCI, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3712	

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/650,075	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NEUMASTER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> John Ricci	<b>Art Unit</b> 3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 7-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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Upon further consideration, the indicated allowability of some claims has been withdrawn.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2, 3, 7, & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dalton 4,265,739 (newly cited).

Dalton shows an impeller (figure 3) having a hub and resilient arms, integrally molded of Neoprene (column 4, lines 48-53), the hub having means 68 to receive a motor shaft. Although Dalton does not disclose that this impeller is used with a paintball loader, it includes all features claimed and could be used for this purpose with no structural change.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claims 9-46 are allowed.

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\* \* \* \* \*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references show devices having a hub and flexible arms.

Johnson 4,697,721 and Stufflebeam 5,799,598 show impellers with flexible arms used to agitate items, but there is no suggestion that these would be suitable for a paint ball hopper.

\* \* \* \* \*

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 703-308-4751

Fax: Use 703-872-9306 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

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Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

*Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.*

My supervisor is Derris Banks, 703-308-1745.

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

Visit our Web site at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).



**JOHN RICCI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3712**